

## Matthew 5:1-13: Dressing for the Occasion

### Story of the wrong outfit for the restaurant / king and the wedding feast...

There is a wedding feast coming, and the only guests allowed entrance will be the rightful citizens of the kingdom, the true sons and daughters of God.

**Luke 14:21,23** <sup>21</sup> ... bring in here the poor and crippled and blind and lame.'...<sup>23</sup> And the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel *them* to come in, so that my house may be filled.

**Matthew 22:11-14** <sup>11</sup> "But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed in wedding clothes, <sup>12</sup> and he \*said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?' And the man was speechless. <sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' <sup>14</sup> For many are called, but few *are* chosen."

These new guests are not what we might expect: they are both evil and good people, the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame, the homeless, and the aimless wanderers of the world.

What unites them is a SENSE OF UNWORTHINESS AND GRATITUDE. They lack the entitled attitude of the former invitees- who had a great blessing set before them and continually made excuses. In the end, they were excluded.

They also share another characteristic: their attire has been supplied for them by the King Himself AND THEY KNOW IT.

**Isaiah 61:10** <sup>10</sup> I will rejoice greatly in the Lord, My soul will exult in my God; For He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

**Romans 3:21-22a** <sup>21</sup> But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup> even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe...

All of the true children wear holy garments, which is the righteousness- the true character- of Jesus Christ!

God's children, as we walk in the Spirit, are known by the family likeness we share with Jesus.

The beatitudes are often seen as a set of spiritual goals. What they actually describe is the character of Christ imparted to us and the accompanying blessings.

**Matt. 5:1-12** When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. <sup>2</sup> He opened His mouth and *began* to teach them, saying, <sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**Isaiah 53:2** <sup>2</sup> For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, And like a root out of parched ground; He has no *stately* form or majesty That we should look upon Him, Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.

<sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

**Isaiah 53:3-4** <sup>3</sup> He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. <sup>4</sup> Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried;

<sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

**Isaiah 53:7** <sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth.

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

**Isaiah 53:11** <sup>11</sup> As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see *it* and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities.

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

**Isaiah 53:10** <sup>10</sup> But the Lord was pleased To crush Him, putting *Him* to grief; If He would render Himself *as* a guilt offering, He will see *His* offspring, He will prolong *His* days, And the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

**Isaiah 53:9** <sup>9</sup> His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

**Isaiah 53:5** <sup>5</sup> But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

<sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Isaiah 53:8, 12** <sup>8</sup> By oppression and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation, who considered That He was cut off out of the land of the living For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke *was due*?

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.

When the time for the Heavenly Banquet comes, God Himself has provided for us to be dressed for the occasion.

Have you put off the old self and put on the righteousness of Christ?